Connecting Rural Areas with National Highways

†3334. DR.D.MASTHAN:
SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:
Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any plan for connecting the rural areas within 20 Kilometer range of National Highways, in the country to the same;

(b) if so, the detailed outline of this scheme; and

(c) if no such plan has been made, the reasons therefor and whether any such plan will be formulated in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Ministry of Surface Transport has plans to expand National Highway gradually with the final objective to ensure that no part of the country is more than 50 kms away form a National Highway.

Disposal of Ships by SCI

3335. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Shipping Corporation of India propose to dispose off some ships;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken for development of shipping sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) The SCI propose to dispose off 13 ships during the year 2000-01. The Government have fixed the economic life of all categories of vessels. Normally when a ship completes its economic life and its repair expenses become prohibitively high, the same is disposed off. However, in some cases when a ship has not completed its economic life but the repair expenses become high due to poor physical condition of the ship or the ship is not acceptable in the market and thus the operation of ship techno-commercially unviable, the same is disposed off.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.